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THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ✓  
FAMILY OF WING

A family with a thousand  
years of history

By  
Albert Edwin Wing

Providence, Rhode Island  
1938







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Albert E. Wing

1727385



“He who careth not whence he came,  
Careth little whither he goeth.”

ALBERT EDWIN WING

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND  
DECEMBER, THE TWENTY-FIFTH, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHT





COAT OF ARMS  
OF THE WING FAMILY

*"Tout pour Dieu et ma Patrie"*

"The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places;  
yea I have a goodly heritage." PSALMS IV, 8





# THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE FAMILY OF WING

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## A FAMILY WITH A THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY

By ALBERT E. WING

**T**HIS OLD AND distinguished family dates back to the earliest of colonial days in America. And previous to its colonial settlement, it is possible to trace it back quite definitely into the remote and dim past. The founder of the family undoubtedly came into England with the Danish invasion about 950 A. D., a thousand years ago. Geoffrey Winge of Huntingdonshire, born about 1250, was one of the early Anglian ancestors of the present family. In England today there are two "Wing" parishes. One of them is in Buckingham and consists of the ancient and famed Wing Manor, once the property of Cardinal Wolsey; the other, in Rutland. Both have churches dating back to the twelfth century.

The name "Wing" is derived from the Danish word "vinge" meaning a "wing"; and one of the Vikings, who settled Iceland, was named "Voengr", which means the same thing. In various English counties—Buckingham, Huntingdon, Oxford, Kent—the name frequently appeared as Wyng, Winge or in other variations; and those bearing the name were for the most part of the landed gentry and yeomanry.

The Wing crest, or coat-of-arms, was given to Sir Theodore Wing by King Henry VII in 1450 for the use of the Wings of Rutland County. It consists of a shield divided in the center vertically, silver and green, a pair of sleeves counter-changed between two gold wings. The motto placed in a scroll below the shield is translated, "*All for God and my Country.*"





*"In the armory of Great Britain, 'tis there you will spy  
The Wing armor and coat-of-arms, and nearby  
A shield beautifully embossed with silver and green,  
And between two wings a silk wreath so loved is seen.  
These were the richest and best that a King could bestow,  
But greater honor and praise did all people show.  
Lord and warden of the wastes and liveries was he,  
And in true heraldic history, his name we see.  
King Henry the Seventh no greater honor could give  
Than was given Sir Theodore as long as he lived.  
For splendor and beauty, there could not be found one  
Arrayed more royally, except the King on his throne."*

*Samuel B. Wing, Phillips, Maine*

**Q**UON JUNE 5, 1632 O. S., came to America, settling first at Saugus (Lynn), Mass., Mother Deborah Wing, the two-year widow of the stern old Puritan, Rev. John Wing, and her four sons John, Daniel, Stephen and Matthew. The passage across on the "William and Francis" was a tortuous one and required eighty-eight days. Deborah's mother was Anne Bates, sister of Rev. John Bates of Wherwell where the Rev. Stephen Bachiler was the Vicar.

The Rev. John Wing was a son of Matthew Wing. Matthew, born in 1555, was a tailor of Banbury who lived near Banbury Cross. Rev. John early became a dissenter and was ejected from the Church. He spent eighteen years in Holland—Flushing, the Hague and





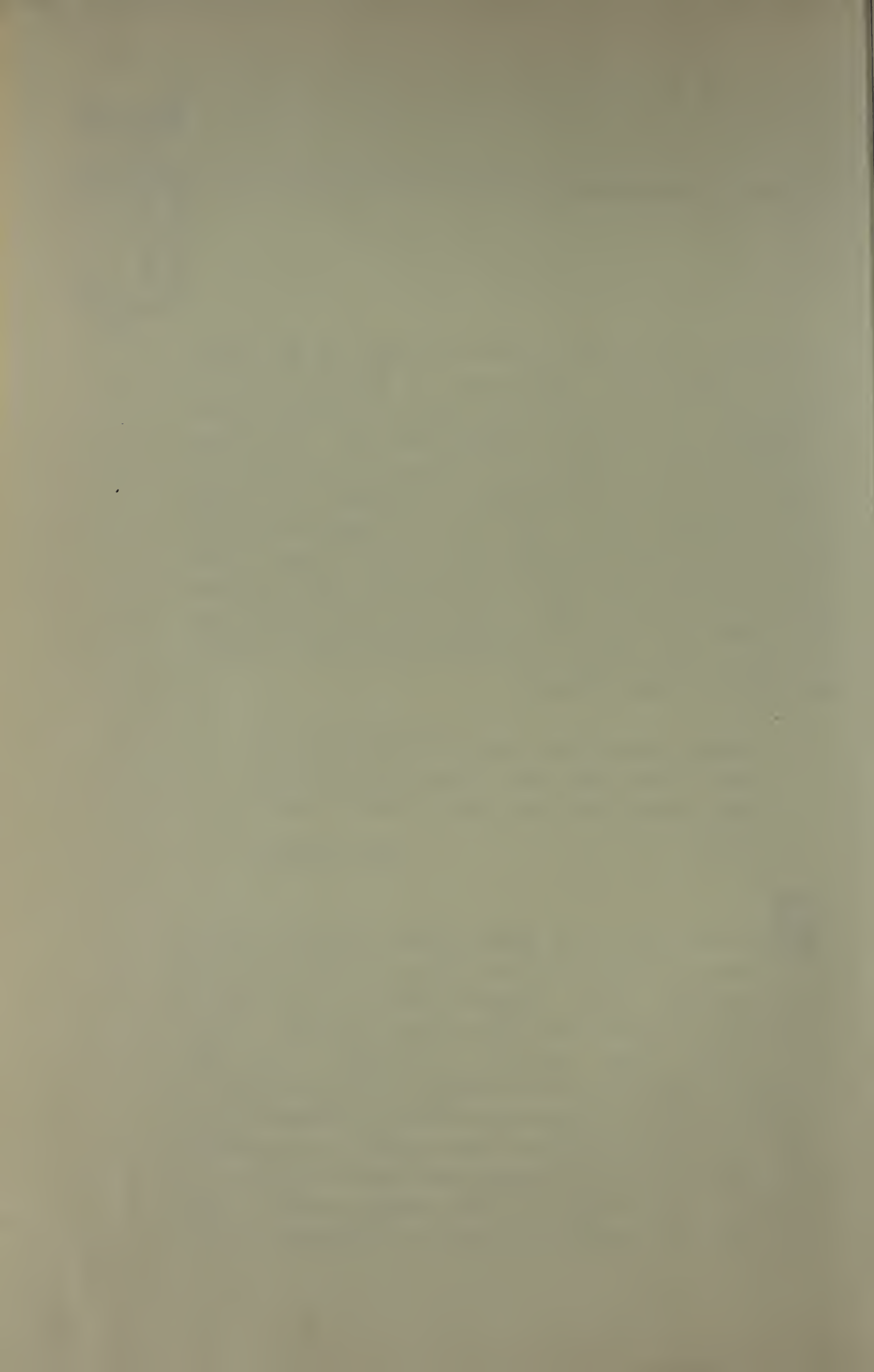


elsewhere—and was the one-time preacher to the Company of Merchants Adventurers in Holland; and to Sophia, Princess of The Palatine; also to Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia and daughter of King James I. After these eighteen years in Holland, he returned to London in order to accompany his family to America, but he fell sick and died in 1630. Rev. Conway Wing in his early history of the Wing Family states that the Rev. John came to America, but this is now known to be incorrect. Rev. John was the author of several books which may be found at the Library of the British Museum, a few at the Boston Public Library.

*“Parents cannot doe all, and performe their owne and their childrens parte also. The good which the parent doth endeavor cannot come unto the child if he neglect himself.”*

*Rev. John Wing*

**A**CCOMPANYING THE gentle-woman Deborah and her four young sons was her father, the previously mentioned septuagenarian, Rev. Stephen Bachiler (Batchelder), a graduate of Oxford, and also a non-conformist. Three days after their arrival at Boston, the Rev. Bachiler organized the fifth church to be established in the New England Colonies and the first at Saugus (Lynn). This first meeting-house in Lynn stood on the northeast corner of what is now Shepard and Summer Streets, not far from the birthplace of the present writer. Some years later he founded the town of Hampton, N. H.,





finally returning to England at ninety-three, four times married, and passing on at an even hundred. Like Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams, this old grand-sire of ours was generations ahead of his time. "No, we did not come over on the 'Mayflower', but we came over on a ship—the 'William and Francis'—twelve years later that brought Stephen Bachiler and with him the teaching of religious liberty for the New World."

Of him the following story is told. There were four children to be baptized that first Sabbath—Thomas Newhall, the first white child born in Saugus, Stephen Hussey (Rev. Bachiler's grandson), who was less than a week younger than Thomas, and two others. Thomas being the oldest, was presented first, but Rev. Bachiler put him aside and took Stephen Hussey, saying, "I will baptize my own child first."

Incidentally, this strong-willed but broad-minded Rev. Stephen Bachiler was a progenitor of not only the Wing clan in America, but also of the poet Whittier and the statesman Daniel Webster.

Five years went by at Saugus. Then our ancestress, Deborah, and her four sons took up the trek to Shawme—oldest town on the Cape—which later was called Sandwich after their home town across the water. Shortly thereafter, Matthew returned to England where he took a wife; but they both with their only son died young leaving no progeny. From John, Daniel and Stephen have descended the three lines of the family in America.







On coming to Sandwich, John was twenty-six; Daniel, twenty-two; and Stephen, eighteen. Matthew was the youngest. They have been characterized thusly: "John was the fearless practical pioneer; Daniel, the idealist and religionist; and Stephen, the scholar and man of affairs." The two latter helped to establish the first Friends' (otherwise Quakers') Meeting in America and it is claimed that this occurred on the farm of Daniel. Both rest today in the little burying ground in the shadow of time-worn Spring Hill Meeting House where until recent



SPRING HILL MEETING HOUSE AT SANDWICH

years gathered many of their descendants on First and Fifth Days. John never took up with the Friends. He moved further down on the Cape to what is now the Town of Brewster, perhaps to get away from them; who knows? Today a stone that was dedicated in 1910







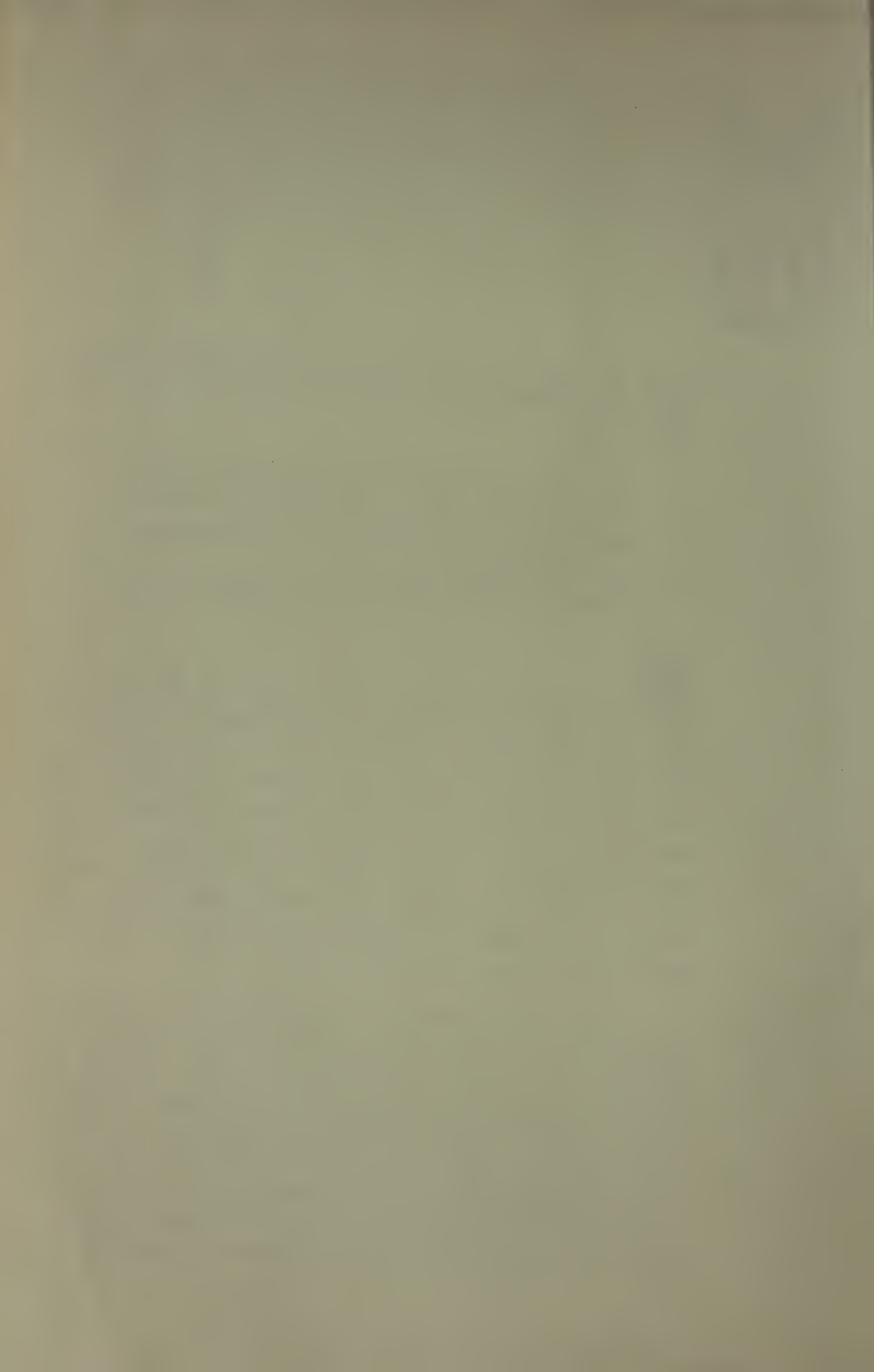
marks the spot of his old home on Wings Island—which really is no island at all. The inscription on the stone reads in part:

*"In 1656, near this spot, John Wing erected the first house and became the first settler within the limits of old Harwich. Here he died in 1699. He owned land across the Cape from sea to sea.*

*Erected in 1910 by the Wing Family of America, Inc."*

**T**HE QUAKERS OF that day had a harried time indeed, and it is said that members of the family "worshipped God our own way in secluded dells in the forest and behind barred doors in our own homes, and walked the streets of Sandwich town when no man or woman dared give us the time of day without being subjected to fine and punishment." Both Daniel and Stephen, being true to their convictions were often called before the Court at Plymouth for "sundrie mis-carriages of conduct" and forced to pay exorbitant fines.

Large families were the vogue of the day and the grandchildren of the three brothers John, Daniel and Stephen were many. Looking over early records of Sandwich and nearby towns, we find the name of Wing often recorded indicating that they were men of affairs more than the ordinary run of the colonists. Many of their old homesteads are still standing, some of them still in the hands of the family. In fact it has been said that no New England family of the present generation is





richer in the possession of rare old colonial houses than are the Wings. Notable is the old Fort House at Sand-



OLD FORT HOUSE AT SANDWICH

wich, the home in which the late Alvin P. Wing was born and died. The central part of this house was originally a fort or blockhouse built in the first days of the settlement. It is probable that Stephen purchased it from the Town, remodeling and adding to it. Here he lived till the end of his days. This old house is remarkable in never having passed out of the hands of the "Stephens" and Freeman, the Cape Cod historian, states that it is probably the oldest dwelling house in New England. Then there is the old Isaac Wing House at Scorton Neck which boasts of the largest fireplace in all New England.

Gradually, of one generation or the next, these early Wings ventured away from the Cape. Lack of space







alone forbids giving the details of those early groups that went west to New York State, especially Dutchess County, founded the Oblong, founded Wings Falls which later became Glens Falls—the name having been changed, as the story goes, when it (the name) was sold to a man by the name of Glen for a good supper with plenty of liquor. Nor will space permit relating the interesting exodus of those Loyalist Wings, led by Gershom Wing, into Ontario at a later date, and something of our Canadian cousins. Today this old-time blue-blooded Yankee race is found in every city and almost every hamlet in America. There are no less than one hundred thousand lineal descendants of Mother Deborah and probably one half live east; the other half west, of the Hudson River. Fully one hundred of Deborah's grandsons carried flint-locks in the Revolution and at least five hundred bore arms in the War of the Rebellion. It is interesting to note that it was the twenty-two year old Stephen, son of the pioneer Stephen, who was the first of the family to lose his life for his Country. He was killed in King Philip's War in 1675.

**I**T WOULD fill many pages to but enumerate the names of those who have made names for themselves in one line of enterprise or another. It will be sufficient to simply remind the reader of the now almost forgotten Asa Sylvester Wing, the greatest of all the abolitionists, to whom the slaves with their small savings erected a monument in 1852; and of Simon W. Wing, the first Socialist candidate for the Presidency of these United States.





The eldest son of the original Stephen, Nathaniel, settled in Pocasset, a part of Falmouth, Mass. So important were his holdings that the land was called Wings Neck, and is to this day. Nathaniel did not at all sympathize with his father's religious views, we are told. A grandson of his, Simeon by name, born in 1722, with his seven sons migrated to New Sandwich (later Wayne), Maine between the years 1775 and 1780. Previous to the building of the railroad through Winthrop this was a thriving and bustling town. One by one these boys settled on farms about a large pond known today sometimes as Wings, sometimes as Pocasset Pond. Old-timers recall that they were noted for their shrill high-pitched voices and often they could be heard calling across the pond, one to another. Today in the old Wing Cemetery overlooking the Pond, these seven brothers lie, head to head, forming a circle with a monument within. Just outside and forming another larger circle lie the next generation. And then another circle.

One of the youngest of the seven was Moses, born in 1759, who as a lad of sixteen ran away from home to join the Continental Army. Not long thereafter in a battle he was severely wounded in the leg and ever after had to wear a wooden leg. In the army, he was a surgeon's helper. Later in life he became a physician and surgeon and practiced for many years. Old Grandmother Patty (Martha), with Indian blood in her veins through her mother, Martha Chebuck, the second wife of Doctor Moses, was a Maxim. She was a great aunt of the well known Hiram and Hudson (christened Isaac). Es-





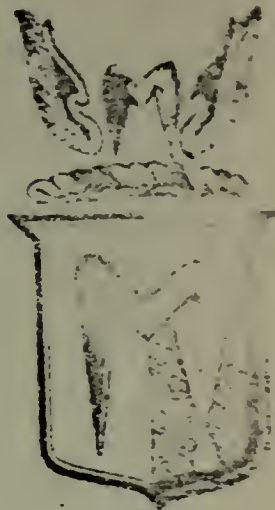


pecially in her younger days, she was a very robust and powerful woman. It was told of her that she once carried a sack of four bushels of salt upstairs, and that on her hundredth birthday, to prove her youth and agility, she jumped over a three-rail fence. Of their six children, Mary must not be forgotten, born on the day in May 1799, that George Washington died.

Through the service of Dr. Moses in the War for Independence, many of us have been qualified for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution or the Daughters. And another whose service would serve the same purpose was Nathan Maxim (of Rochester, Mass.), father of Grandmother Patty.

It was in 1882 that the first Reunion of the Wing Family was held. But it was not until 1902 that an association was formed, largely through the efforts of the late Col. George W. Wing of Kewaunee, Wisconsin, to be known as the Wing Family of America, Incorporated, a charter for which was taken out under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Daniel B. Wing of Boston has been the president of the association since the summer of 1935. Previous to him for several years Prof. Herbert Wing, Jr. of Carlisle, Pennsylvania served in the same capacity. The secretaryship for years has been filled by Mrs. Caroline E. Wing Parker of Acushnet, Mass. Col. George also served as editor of our official quarterly genealogical magazine, *THE OWL*, from 1899 until the time of his death in 1924. Mrs. Grace Wing Barnes of



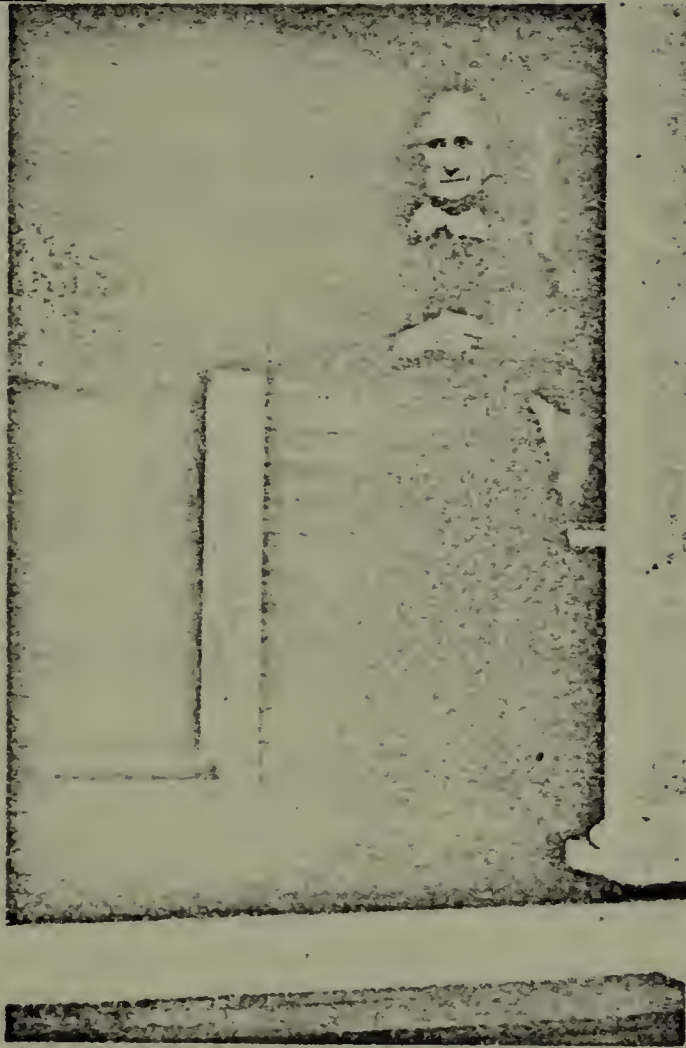


Clinton, Iowa, daughter of the Colonel is the present editor. This magazine surpasses all other publications of its kind both in age and point of service, and it has never resorted to soliciting or accepting advertising of any kind. From time to time reunions have taken place—in Sandwich, in Albany, in Chicago—bringing together kinsfolk from the far-flung corners of the Country. One is scheduled for the coming August at Old Sandwich-on-the-Cape—Sandwich, the fairest of all New England towns, as Joseph Jefferson once endearingly referred to it. Several State units of the association have also been formed, notably those of the States of Maine and Washington and they have their annual reunions.

The renowned one-legged Dr. Moses and Great-great-grandmother Patty were the grandparents of the writer's grandfather, Dr. Augustus Kendrick Wing born in Wayne in 1824 and deceased, 1872. "Grammie" Abigail Bailey Wing, his wife, lived to be ninety-three and to her last day never lost her keenness and interest in affairs in general. Born in Phillips, she lived in Auburn, Maine; later in Lynn, Mass.; spending her remaining days with the Cooks of Brunswick, Maine. It was from her lips that we first heard the wonderful story of the early Wings. More was absorbed from that good Aunt Lois (Lois Wing Mitchell of Newton and Gurnet), oldest daughter of Dr. Augustus and Abigail Wing. She is now approaching her eighty-fifth birthday; not eighty-five years old but eighty-five years young; helpful and busy, and as spritely as ever was Grandmother Patty or Grandmother Chebuck.







ABIGAIL BAILEY WING

1822 — 1915





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OF AMERICA, INC. 1938

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Ah! what would the Reverend John have to say,  
Should he be permitted to travel this way?  
He'd utter no harsh bitter word we would hope  
When he learned his wife's dwelling now shelters  
a Pope.

But when he discovered it's only a name,  
He'd find there is really no reason for blame.  
And he, if he lived in these times as we do,  
Would probably grow to be tolerant too.

From "*The Reunion of 1902*"  
by Daniel Wing, Hingham Center, Mass.











